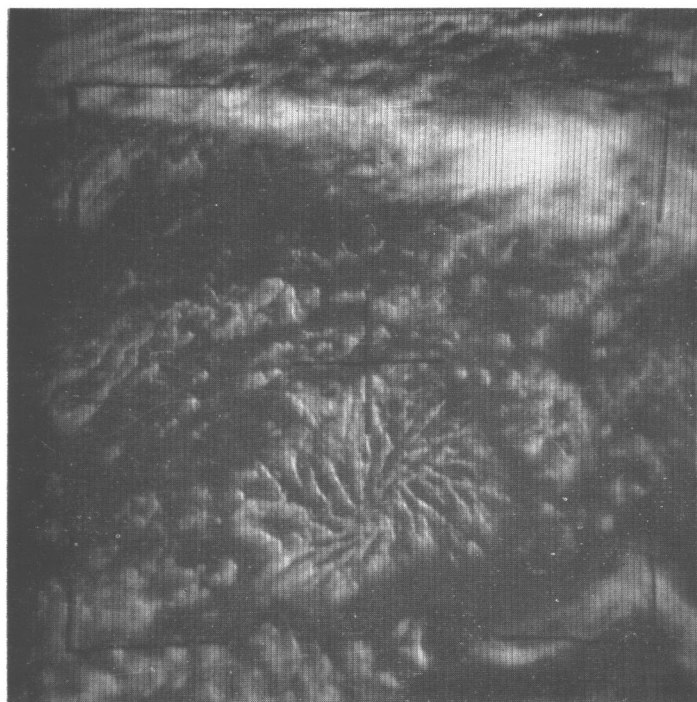
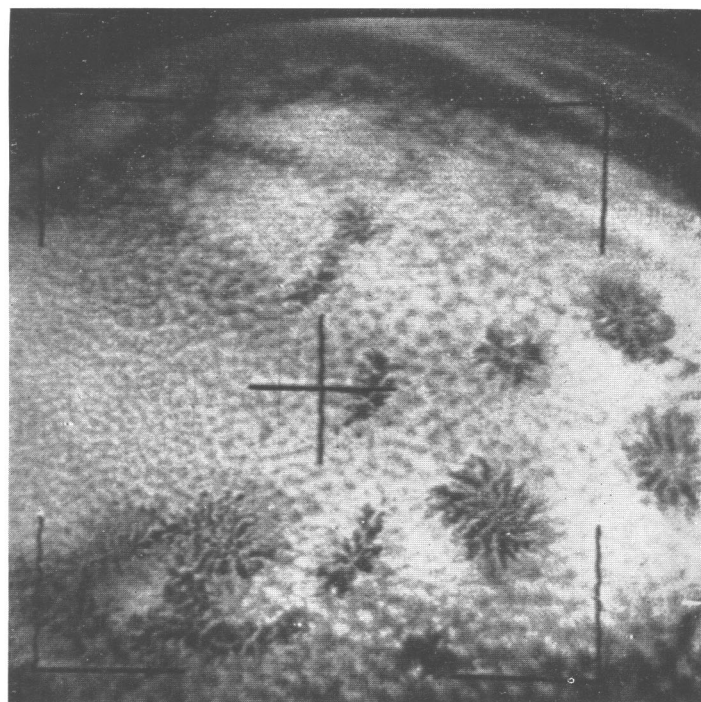


PICTURE OF THE MONTH



(a) TIROS V, Pass 838/837, Camera 1, frame 20, August 16, 1962, 2322 GMT



(b) TIROS VIII, Pass 3049/3048, Camera 1, frame 17, July 18, 1964, 1713 GMT

Radial or semi-radial cloud patterns over the tropical and subtropical oceans have been seen in numerous satellite photographs. Outstanding examples, such as those shown here, are rare; but similar patterns in less well-developed form are commonly observed. They are most frequently seen in the low latitudes of the Eastern Pacific.

Photograph (a) shows a single such pattern, approximately 200 miles in diameter, centered near 17.5° N., 155° W., about 100 mi. south-southeast of Hawaii. Photograph (b) reveals several somewhat smaller patches in the South Pacific Ocean west of Peru. The picture

center is at approximately 15° S., 100° W., and individual patterns are roughly 100–150 mi. in diameter. A third outstanding example was presented as the very first "Picture of the Month" (*Monthly Weather Review*, January 1963, p. 2), and the reader is referred to the text accompanying that picture for additional information.

Because these patterns occur within sparse-data areas, few nearby conventional observations are available, and none from within the patterns themselves. Why should such strikingly different modes of convection exist side-by-side over a relatively uniform ocean surface?